## THE ALIEN LAND LAW

Responses to The Gazette's Solicitation for Opinions

FOR OR AGAINST SECTION 10.

While Some are Profuse in Their Reasons, Advocating or Opposing, Others Decline,

Making a Most Interesting Collection of Letters for The Gazette Readers. Various Amendments Suggested to the Law.

low data since The Gazette sent out a law, these to be published to-As there is much said for and

espectfully solicits an expression or or against that clause, and

ou consistently can we should have you answer the following

you in favor of the law as it not, what amendment would you

the intent of the law to exclude mital from the state do you regard this effect as ben buriful to the interests of Texas a full discussion of these ques he public edification, and will plies together in The GAZETTE permient date, making a most DEMONIAT PUBLISHING COMPANY.

W. L. Malone, Vice-pres

I II. GOSSETT, KAUPMAN,

a freeline for the Present on Account of Pressing Business. AUFMAN, KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEX. Aug. 28, 1891.

-Your favor of the 27th instant

you do me the honor to request on the meaning, intent, conse-ets, of article 10 of the alien land

that press of court duties in that other East Texas counties and sty whole time for the next set was weeks, and I will be demonstrate attention that your inquisions of an electrometer that decided sucure to reproduce that, is also as may be relevant, it cauthority, and I will take pleas-ministing to the discussion of this a lift Gazutte on my return as Yours truly, M. H. Gossher,

I. I. DOGGETT. MCKINNEY,

mails the Law is Too Sweeping in Its MCKINNEY: COLLES COUNTY, TEX. 4 Aug. 28, 1891.

sin In answer to yours of August. A. Dimorra

JUHN H. COCHRAN, DALLAS.

inks it Unconstitutional and Void. De-Jertive and Too Severe

(to I have no inclination to have

who were and may rea the ex-tensions in matters of vita-tic actors in matters of vita-tic whose people of Texas, visional to your poilte request of the give you, and through your wer some tions 1 and 2 together. Are for in taxor of the law as i

DELLAS, TEX., Aug. 29, 1891.

it int, what amendment would

youl. Section 35, article 3 of the in reads. "No bill " " in more than one subject, which pressed in its title." The title

th land law mans, "An act to be 3 articles 9 and 10, and to add 04, 106, 10c, 10d, 10c, 10f, 10g and to repeat all laws in conflict here. You will observe that the subject is a in the title of this not, nor does what it proposes to amend. "An acoust tille a article a and 10 of Not of the revises civil statutes of red Texas, at least it does not so say, so thing at the title indimating its many to prohibit allens from own-in Fexas. So it my opinion the the declared unconstitutional and f so then It has done all the possi-without accomplishing my of the alts unlicipated by its author.

In Texas for any purpose. Under aufacturing establishment could be Texas if one of the stockholders lien, for the deed to the company ad on which to erect the manufac-ild be void. And since people selcould be valid. And since people serviced their money in placing stately ugs and costly machinery on other cs land. I assume that it practionistis the building of large needed manufactories in Texas, I do not believe to be the policy of nor do I believe it to be to the interpret people. For these all things is for do I believe it to be to the interfiber people. For above all things,
as needs more and larger manufactories
she eadnot reasonably expect Northern
affacturers to build in Texas compating
collishments which will only reader their
berty in the now manufacturing states
incrative, or less valuable to themI see no way to free the people of
as from the coormous tribute now paid
the protected barons of the manufacstates, except by inviting protectstates, except by inviting protectstates, except by inviting, protec and encouraging the investment of for-expetal in building and maintaining for, woolen, iron and other manufac-ries in our berders; for our people have the money, and will never have it so er as we pay such heavy tax to the them manufacturees. Of course, as should be prevented from acquiring bolding in perpetuity large bodies of as hands; but this, I think, can and hould be accomplished with a more con-ervative alien land law than the present This object should be accomplished this solved should not cripple or retard be development of the great resources of fexas by criving out foreign money; but ye one winch will be just and equitable to be foreign investors in such improvements, and at the same time protect our own peo-lic in the solvenients of their sail and ple in the so ereignty of their soil, and

which will effectually prevent monopolies and perpetuities. Allens investing their

money in manufactories and other substan-

tial and permanent improvements should be permitted to own a sufficient quantity of land necessary to the successful manage-ment of such investments. Again, I think section 10, which by implication inhibits any loan company with an alien stockholder from selling holding or buying under any mortgage or deed of trust given to secure mortgage or deed of trust given to secure the payment of borrowed money, hereafter loaned by such loan company or alien, is unwise and detrimental to the best interests of our people, as well as harsh and unjust to the loan companies, which have alien stockholders in them. Vast sums of money have been borrowed by many of our best citizens from these loan companies, and many of these loans are maturing during the present money crisis, which renders the debtor helpless and unable to meet his obligation; money crisis, which renders the debtor helpless and unable to meet his obligation; and the companies, by this section and the law, are forced to foreclose under their old deed of trust, because an extension would be a new contract, which, under the law, (unless declared unconstitutional) would deprive the alien lender of any protection, as under section 10 his deed would be void, and section loc does not place future loans on a par with loans heretofore made. I be-lieve the same protection to future loans and the same right of acquiring title on these to be published to-ending public. Following a letter and the replies re-of these lands should be ten years instead

exclude foreign capital from the state!
"If so, do you regard this effect as beneficial or hurtful to the interests of the state! Whether the intention of the law, or author of the law, was to exclude foreign capital from the state. I am unable to say; but I beleve that its rigid enforcement would practically accomplish that result. As I have said above, I do not believe such a result would be beneficial to the interests of Texas, On the contrary, I am satisfied it would be very detrimental, and would only perpetuate and intensify the burdens now borne by our people as contributors to the overgrown fortunes of the protected manufacturers of the East. t seems to me it should be the policy of exas to liberate her people from such unjust seridom to these protected barons, rather than help to forge the chains which

rather than help to lorge the chains which will only render them more helpless.

The above being my views in brief, you will please purdon me for suggesting that inasmuch as I believe the law as enacted too harsh, and although it may be declared on aron, and atmourn it may be declared unconstitutional by the courts, yet it has accomplished harm to Texas by reason of its harshness, which I do not believe was intended by the legislature. Nor do I believe a decision of the courts as to its unconstitutionality would be as beneficial to Texas as would be a modification of the law the same body which passed it. Hence nation convening an extra session, A east such a modification by the same legiation to repair an injury when discovered wisdom, fairness and justice of the people of Texas. Respectfully.

JOHN H. COCHEAN.

G. B. GERALD, WACO. Favors Striking Out the Word "Hereto

fore" in Section 10. WACO, TEX., Aug. 30, 1891. Editor Garette.

In reply to your circular can say that I am opposed to repealing the law, but favor amending by striking out the word bereto-fore in section 10. This would enable miens to continue loans on land, but would compel them to close out in six years all ands that would full to them by fore-liesure. Do not believe that berrowing cossite. Do not believe that borrowing money from aliens is as great a blessing as some think, for the commissions, etc., that go to the agents who negotiate the leans run, up the interest to about what others to an for, and then this class of loans are made upon long time, and I believe that more men have been injured than benefited by hereavely more on long time. them to allegate the lands so them within a reasonable of the state. Have no doubt but what the legislature will amend, but if does not do the commutation of Texas lands in state generally, but individuals who over such corporations, and at the would restore confidence in will be sold out a little earlier. Respectfully, G. B. Gerren.

LEE RIDDLE, GRANBURY.

Favors the Law as It Now Stands With One Exception.

GRANDURY, HOOD COUNTY, TEX.,

Editor Gazette. Asswering your communication of the 27: inst, in reference to section 10 of the alien land law passed by the last legislature, I have to say that some mosth ago I wrose and and published in my home paper. the Granbury News, an article on the said law, i would have given it to the daily press, but not wishing to court state notoriety and feeling that my duty extended no farther than to defend my position amon the people who sent me to the legislature. In a presented my views to the result of the Fortieth representative district. Now that you have so cited an opinion I shall try to secure a copy of that letter and have you with it. I have no copy is win my possession, but for fear tha I shall be unable to get the letter referred to I will wall, anyon you constitute to the ord. briefly answer your questions in the ord in which I fi d them.

in which if it of them.

I I am in favor of the law as it now stands with one exception.

I The amendment i surject is to allow persons having beretofore made leans to renew their leass if they are unable to pay the principal at date of maturity.

No. No man with any brains could ascende this intention to the legislature. The object of the law, as I understand it, was to broblish the ownership of Texas lands by men who have no reverence for our flag; who have no sympathy with the United States and her people, except to make and carry away all the money they can get, who, by menus of the mortgage route, hope to secure large acreage of our lambs at one-fourth or one half it value, to say nothing of the interest they collect before the mortgagor is forced to the wall; fore the mortgagor is forced to the wall who take their securities to England and rob our people of the taxes they should pay. Texas wants foreign capital, but she wants

naturalized.
4. The effect of the alien land law will eventually be the greatest blessing Texas has received from legislation since the declaration of nor independence. If this law had been enacted twenty-five years ago the people of Texas would have been more happy and prosperous to-day than they are. The craze of money-getting and "boom" will ruin any people on earth. When a few men prosper to such an extent as the money-lending business of Texas has brought about, the common masses must suffer. Rome was som for money, and with it was sold the freedom, independence and manhood of the republic.

I will say no more now, but will try to secure for you the letter I referred to. Very respectfully,

LEE RIDDLE.

DAVE DERDEN, HILLSBORO,

Favors the Law as it Now Stands-Not Intended to Exclude Foreign Capital. HILLSBORO, HILL COUNTY, TEX., Aug. 28, 1801.

Editor Gazette. Complying with your request in yout let-ter of the 27th inst, with reference to the alien land law, and in reply wish to say in

answer to your first interrogatory: I am in favor of the law as it now stands. and in answer to your third question, the law was never intended to exclude foreign capital from this country, as the ninth sec-tion of the act plainly tells you the law with regard to alien ownership of personal property is the same as it has been since the act of February, 2854, by the Fifth legislature, and on the same conditions aliens can own and deal in personal property as before, they are not prohibited from loan ing money in Texas by the millions and at as low rate of interest as they please, as some ignorantly charge, and secure same by mortgages on and ownership of personal

The object of the law is to allow and encourage the freest trade and exchange pos-

sible in personal property, money and goods of every kind between our people and aliens as being conducive to the presperity, hap-piness and civilization of each. The law was never intended to do so foolish a thing as to prevent foreigners from buying and selling and exchanging products with our

But the sole aim and object of the law is to prevent aliens and persons not citizens of the United States from owning the land and real and permanent property of this country, as should be the case in every state of this Union for many reasons.

If the foreigner is permitted to own permanent and real property in this country, he draws from the natural resources of this country and sweeps into the coffers of Europe the rents and profits without any return for the benefits he receives and we furnish him. His country return for the benefits he receives and we furnish him. His country thus drawing upon the foundation sources of our prosperity, independence, susten-ance and happiness, weakens our chances in the battle for existence, makes this country weaker and poorer, and the alien and his country stronger and richer.

Already foreigners living in Europe are daily, from the newspaper reports, becom-ing the owners of our factories, breweries, railroads, mines, harbors, etc., and vast areas of our lands, and in many instances in Texas, thousands of acres, including whole counties in places, are owned by foreigners, kept off of the market for high and speculative prices, preventing a settle ment and improvement of same by residen Americans, but holding it for the profits and enhanced value that the labor and ef-forts of Texas citizens will give it by im-proving the adjoining lands, then sell it (the land) for \$15 or \$20 per acre that cost them from 50 cents to \$2 per acre, and thus sweep millions of American money and American labor to Europe without the

slightest return or value received.

And it's no answer to the above propositions to say that Texans have the same rights to purchase and hold lands in Eng-land and Europe as their own citizens. Our people are as effectually barred from buy ing their lands by the fact that they don't want them (a fact well known to Euro-peans) as if they were prohibited by statutes. Then allen ownership of land in its last analysis is attogether alone-sided affair, to the injury of this country and the up-building of Europe.

While on the other hand, free and unfettered trade and exchange between aliens and our people in the proances and our people in the produces and personal property of the country of each does not injure either but benealts and enriches both, for in the case of the sale or exchange of products each gets value received, and as said by Mr. Perry in his Elements of Political Economy:

"What a nation purchases by its exports, it purchases by its most efficient labor and consequently at the cheapest possible rate
to itself. Only those things for the to itself. Only those things for the procur-ing of which a nation possesses decided ad-vantages relatively to other nations and relatively to its own advantages in pro-ducing directly what is received in return, are ever exported; and hence, the return cargoes, no matter what they have cost their original producers, are purchased by this nation as cheaply as if they had been predaced by its own most advanwould be the case if notional taxa

tion in this country was levied upon prin-ciples of a just equality for revenue only, and only for the necessary expenses of the sovernment economically administered.

But unfecturately the unpatriotic and inhuman avaries and selfishness of the Re-publican party impels it to uphold and fasten upon the people an unequal and unjust system of protective tariff taxation contrary to reason, common sense and justice, disturbing natural conditions, robbing

one section of this country for the benefit of another and robbing the producers and masses of the people for the benefit of the few capitalists and manufacturers. But this fact does not alter the inxorable logic of Mr. Perry above quoted.

Then the man is to be pitied who can see this fact does not alter the inxorable logic of Mr. Perry above quoted.

Then the man is to be pittled who can see no difference between the protective tariff and the prohibition of foreigners own-ing the lands of this country, and who has little enough sense to charge a Democratic legislature in Texas with making the alien land law in the interest of Northern money lenders,

the interest of Northern money lenders, and to keep out cheap money, and that the people of Texas and the legislature are antagonistic to capital and imbued with a spirit of communism eager to strike down apital in any quarter. Such stupendous assaults upon the honor, patriotism and integrity of the people of Texas published to the world are destroy-

ing confidence and injuring the state and people of Texas, and not the law. While the law was and is a necessity, and may for a time work a hardshipon a few people, as all laws do, it will in the end bring good re-sults and make our people free, strong, prosperous, independent and happy.

But the opponents of the law go down he fore the argument and a patriotic public sentiment, and say yes, it is right, prohibit aliens from permanent ownership of the land, but let us make loans on it in order to get cheap money, but they forget to tell you who gets cheap money from Europe. Is it the foreigner' No. It is the men and cor-porations that loan foreign money in this country that get cheap money they borrow it in Europe at 4 per cent (a small per cent) and loan it to the people of Texas at 10 and 10 per cent. The fact is, a class of men as agents of

and in combination with European capital, have grown up in Texas and built up an oc have grown up in Texas and built up an oc-cupation of money lending, and combining together are attempting to keep up a high rate of interest, and are abusing the legisla-ture and the people for reducing the rate of interest, and the legislature for passing an effective law for the suppression of usury and in more than one instance some of the loudest shrickers over the alien land law and for cheap money. A part of the combination, I am creditably informed, prevented Northern and Eastern capitalists prevented Northern and Eastern capitalists from loaning money in Texas at 6 per cent. telling them it was no use to reduce the rate to 6 when they could as easily get 10. Answered and cornered everywhere, these same shrickers catch up the old dodge and sophistry of the manufacturer and Republican party for a protective tariff.

"It is not for me," say they "we want the law repealed. It is for the benefit of the poor man and the farmer. Unless he has the privilege of paying \$5,000,000 interest annually on \$50,000,000 that I am to sweep off

his labor into Europe, save for some rich picking for myself, he is ruined." Their solicitude for the noor man and farmer is about, in principle, on a par with that of the boy fishing in the creek plung-ing and diving to the bottom of the stream o rescue his drowning companion, who or being complimented on his heroic act in im periling his life to save his friend, said it wasn't that, "it was because he had the fish bait in his pocket." Respectfully, DAVE DERDEN.

T. J. TILSON, MERIT.

Willing to Bear a Portion of the Respon sibility and Abuse.

MERIT, HUNT COUNTY, TEX., Aug. 31, 1891. Editor Gazette. I shall take pleasure in answering your

interrogations in reference to the land law."

Before answering your questions, however, allow me to briefly refer to the history of the legislation upon this law in the last legislature. By referring to the house legislature. By referring to the house journal you will see on page 52 that the first bill on this subject—bill No. 42—was introduced by myself, the second bill. No. 83, page 58, was introduced by Mr. Gossett of Kaufman county, the third bill. No. 137, page 80, was introduced by Mr. Hodges of Lamar county. The bill that passed, however, was a committee substitute for all three bills. So you see if this law is wrong and vicious all the blame should not attach to the distinguished gentleman from Kaufto the distinguished gentleman from Rauf-man county, but I, as an humble farmer member of the Twenty-second legislature, am willing to bear my part of the responsi-bility and abuse too. Mr. Editor, I will simply say that I did all in my power to secure the passage of this measure, and I have

no apologies to make and no desire to change my vote upon the bill as passed. I favor section 10 because I believe that American soil should be owned by American citizens—by men who know something of our form of government and have a veneration for the same-by men who understand something of our republican and democratic institutions, and love them so well that they would be willing to sacrifice not only property but their life's blood in maintaining and perpetuating these grand institutious, and not by men who know the or nothing of our form of government and republican institutions but who can less; in fact, men who are enemies to our institutions, and who would use the money they draw from us in the way of rents, etc., to subvert these grand principles and overthrow our form of government and establish on its ruins a monarchy or despotism. And a man is blind indeed if he does not realize that this is the tendency

of events at this time.

I favor the latter clause of section 10, viz: I favor the latter clause of section 10, viz:
"That any deed or conveyance to any alien
or to any firm, company or corporation
composed in whole or in part of aliens shall
be void," because If this provision
were not there the whole object and purpose of the bill would be defeated, because
times, companies and convertions in unfirms, companies and corporations innum erable with one or more naturalized citizens belonging thereto and the rest aliens, would be formed, and in this way would buy, own and control our country as thoroughly as if no attempt at legislation on this subject had ever been made.

I feel that I have answered your first

men who have no love or sympathy for our laws and our institutions from acquiring such power and control in this country as would convert this "land of the free and home of the brave" into a country of serfs; to prevent in this country the condition of landlord and tenantry that has blighted and withered some of the fairest countries of Europe. It is folly to argue that this is not the tendency of this condition of things. Give the money lords and autocrats the power, and they will get here precisely as they have in England, Ireland and other European countries. And how, I ask, could you more thoroughly vest them with this power than by giving them the ownership and control of the ingis of the countries. ship and control of the lands of the cou try! Give them this, and you at once make them masters of the situation. By control ng the lands they control the masses of th people, and thereby completely control the legislation of the country. And it requires no seer or prophet to forecast the character of legislation that would thus obtain. Europe has already dictated legislation to this country that has been a withering blight upon us. She has largely dictated outfinancial policy, and what do we see? a spirit of discontent and unrest-scenes o commotion and agitation that reach the profoundest depths of our social and political structures, causing them to vibrate t

their very centers.

These are not theories, but actual conditions that confront us. And now shall we continue to nurse and noursh the viper the continue to harse and nourse the vipe into more vigorous life that be may plung his poisonous fangs deeper into our politica and social vitals? It seems to me that it is time for every true American pairiot to arouse from his simbering betargy an crush this monster, even though it cost the withdrawal of \$30,000,000 from our state But it around that the withdray of the But it is argued that the withdrawal of th But it is argued that the withdrawal of this amount of foreign money from our state at this time would have a very depressing effect upon the country. Admit this to be true. Yet is it not a fact that the longer this kind of legislation is deferred the worse it will be. If it causes depression now to withdraw \$50,000,000, what will be the result when there are \$500,000,000 invested? The fact is, this matter has already been deferred too long. Is it not a said been deferred too long. Is it not a sa commentary upon the patiotism and states manship of this great country—a country o such coundless and inexhaustible resour and possibilities—that we cannot suppourselves with money, a circulating media autocrats and enemies of our republican institutions? Shade of Washington, Jeffer son and Jackson, can this be so! Very re-spectfully, T. J. Tilson.

E. L. AGNEW, BONHAM

More Convinced and Deciden the Law

31.—1 am in receipt of your favor of Aug. 27, asking me to answer, as far as I consistently could, the following questions concerning the alien land law, viz:

2. Iffnot, what amendments would you

a. Was the intent of the law to exclude

3. Was the intent of the law to exclude foreign capital from the state?

4. If so, do you regard this effect as beneficial or nurful to the interest of Texas?

As a member of the legislature I voted for the law, I was in favor of it then, and since that time I have seen no reason to change my views on the question. In fact, after hearing and reading the various discussions of the law, pro and con, I have but become more convinced and decided that the law was much needed, and that it was one of the best laws enacted by the Twentyone of the best laws enacted by the Twenty second legislature. For, if it be a fact that at this early period of the history of our at this early period of the history of our state government, we cannot have a law prohibiting aliens from owning land in the state, without disturbing and overturning business interests of the state; it but shows conclusively what a hold and influence the alien already has on our governmental af-fairs; and that the greatest misfortune is that the law was not reseat long before we that the law was not passed long before w reached this state of affairs. For, if it be a fact that such is the condition of affairs. it clearly appears that the aliens have such interests in our state that our legislators dare not pass a law restricting their rights in the ownership of our soil. lest we thereby disturb and destroy the substantial interests of our own citizens, a condition I devoutly hope we may never reach. The great hue and cry raised against the law by foreign loan companies, and those in the employment of said companies, and directly interested in burdening our citizens with borrowed money, that the companies from extending their loans a they mature, and of forcing them to with draw from Texas, is the merest bosh, to the truth is, a large number of them had declined long before the law was passed to place any more loans or renew those matur-ing, giving as their reasons at the time that they had out all the money they desired, and that they would be cautious and await the result of the great stringency in money matters that has been upon the country for

the past year. opponents of the law have very shrewdly made it appear that the law was designed and intended to prohibit and exclude foreign capital from the state, and that it would have that effect, when such was never intended. While I believe that indebtedness and encumbering property with mortgages is a curse rather than 2 blessing, and the easier it is to borrow money the more people will borrow who could do without it, still I have no objection, and rather like it, to see foreign money come into our state, to swell our otherwise too small circulating medium, and to assist in developing our wast presumes. ing our vast resources, carrying on our commerce, and invigorate our business in-terests; and there is not a word in the law to prevent or prohibit foreigners from bringing their money in our midst, or from loaning it and forcing its collection through our courts; it simply prohibits their owning or buying lands

or buying lands Certainly national banks handle and loan much more money in Texas than do the foreign loan companies, and still they are not permitted to loan on real estate security —yet you fail to find them declining to loan money on that account. The law does not prohibit foreigners from loaning money and taking security on lands, but prohibits them buying the land in at a foreclosure sale. Every person who ever borrowed money from one of these companies knows how particular they are-that in no event they may have to buy in the land, only loaning about one dollar on three or four dollars' worth of land at a low appraisement, so that should they be compelled to foreclose they will not have to take the land, but that some one else may be glad to buy the land at figures over and above their loan and interest, so law would present a just, reason that out of the great number of loans I ap-

companies have to buy in the lands to save their loan.

The act in question specially says that "an

alien shall have and enjoy in the state of Texas, such rights pertaining to personal property as are or shall be accorded to citizens of the United States by the laws of zens of the United States by the laws of the nation to which such alien shall belong, or by the treaties of such nations with the United States." [Article 9 of said act.] The above is all the limitation contained in the act in reference to personal property of an alien. The whole and sole evil sought after is the owning and holding of lands by aliens, not of their personal property, such as money, nor loaning and collecting of as money, nor loaning and collecting of same. The act does not prohibit the bring-ing of their money here, nor loaning it, nor taking security for it, nor to their using the machinery of our courts to force its collection: but it does prohibit their owning and holding lands in our state, and so intrench themselves as to occupy a position to dis-tate the the legislation of our state, or threaren the prosperity of our people, or the perpetuity of our institutions, if perchance our legislation does not suit then I noticed a few days since in a newspaper article, that foreigners now own in the United States 28.887.000 acres of land— I feel that I have answered your first and second questions. I have no changes to suggest unless I could amend the law so as to make it stronger and more binding.

As to your third question. "Was the intent of the law to exclude foreign capital from the state." I have simply to say that the intention of the law was to prevent the law and would furnush homes for 340,725 families, who would make citizens who could be depended upon in peace or war, but as it is, it complets that many more people to be tended. foreign capitalists.
This is a trightful showing, and such as

the law contemplates to break up—that, too, in accordance with a long and continued demand of American citizens everywhere. Respectfully, E. L. Agnew,

C. U. CONNELLEE, EASTLAND Does Not Care to Give an Expression of His

Views, and Declines. EASTLAND, EASTLAND COUNTY, TEX.,

Editor Gazette 27th inst, is at hand. I am much obliged to you for the compliment implied in seeking my opinion on the "alien land law," and for the courtesy extended me in offering me the use of your valuable space in giving m views on the law. But as I seek no news paper notoriety, and do not believe that the ublic would be benefited by an expres you success, and again thanking you for

ALVIN C. OWSLEY, DENTON.

Dues Not Think He Could Benefit the People by Giving His Views. DENTON, DENTON COUNTY, TEX., Aug. 28, 1891.

Dask Str.-Your favor of yesterday, so liciting an expression from me on the "allen land law," is just received. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind

remembrance, but I cannot see how an ex-pression from me on that subject would in any manner benefit the people of Texas, and I am not to ing to gain any notoriety by rushing into print. Many, more able than express their views in your excellent paper and I will not be missed by remaining silent. Very respectfully, ALVIN C. OWSLEY.

A. K. SWAN, HENRIETTA.

Not in Fayor of the Law as It Now Stands on the Statute Books. HENRIETTA, CLAY COUNTY, TEX.,

Your favor of the 27th instant, in which

you propound certain questions with reference to section 10 of the allen land law, before me. You ask four questions, each of which I will answer, leaving the second question to be answered last. You ask first, "are you in favor of the law as it now stands?" My answer is most positively no! I am in favor of an alien law with reference to real estate, but not such as the one now. to real estate, but not such as the one nov n our statute books. I think the state would be better off with

at any law on the subject than with the present law, and especially those who have their property mortgaged or those who have outstanding vendor's lien notes to meet besides. I think the law as it now stands is not only unwise, but extremely unjust, my reasons for all of which I will give it answer to question No. 20 give in answer to question No. 2.

You ask third, "was the intent of the law exclude foreign capital from the state." My candid epinion is that the majority of those who voted for the bill did so with but two objects. One was to get the bill out of the way and the other was to go on record as favoring an alien law. I do not believe one-third of the members who voted for the bill had the slightest conception of what the effect of the law would be. Nor do I believe that it was the intention of any re spectable number of them to exclude for on capital from the state.

eign capital from the state.
You ask fourth, 'do you regard this effect as beneficial or hurtful to the interests of Texas!" to which I have the honor to reply that the effect is not only hurtful, but ruinous. That we have one of the grande t tates in the Union a d resurrounded with more no schilities and probabilities that an oth ristat; o e will deny, and that a live need to make ours the gre test country under the sun is devel-opment; we have the pluck, energy and enterprise, in fact, everything necessary to that end, save m nev. That we must get from abroad, ad it is my candid opinion that, aside from the fact that it is the cheapest money, it is to our interes—to get as much money from foreign capitalists, and as little from Northe n and Eastern capi tallsts, in our own government, as possible; but as I shall take fully as much space in answering question No. 2s syou can afford to allow me. I will not discuss this point at

In question No. 2 you ask what amend-ment I would suggest. This brings up the merits of the whole law, and if I were to

this time.

meris of the whole law, and if I were to make the law to my own liking. I would not allow an alien or foreigner or domestic corporation to buy or hold lands within the state of Texas acquired by ordinary purchase, save that I would allow all cor-porations permissible within the state to buy and hold lands necessary for the trans-action of their business such a relivanaction of their business, such as railways their right of way, depot grounds, etc., manufacturing and mining corporations their sites; I would allow no corporation, such as land and pasture companies. I would allow loan companies to loan money and real state sample, with the particles of the companies. on real estate security with the privilege of purchasing at their own forcelosure sale in the event such sale should be necessary in the collection of their debt, but I would require them to allemate the land so pur-chased within ten years from the date of the purchase. I would make no distinction between corporations whose stockholders were in whole or in part for-eigners and those whose stockholders were all denizers. I would allow allens who inherit or take under will ten years within which to allenate the lands so acquired or to become citizens of the United States. I am unalterably opposed to any law of escheats where owners or heirs may be found let. where owners or heirs may be found, but in lieu of an escheat law I would at the ex-piration of the time within which they had to alienate, have the owners cited, the property advertised and sold as under exe-cution, allowing only citizens to purchase at such sale, and after paying all costs and expenses I would have the re-mainder of the proceeds of such sale turned over to the proper owner. The idea that the state of Tryns would sail a tract that the state of Texas would sell a tract of land to A-who was foreign born, but has become naturalized-receive the purchase money and issue to him a patent, and then after his death, because his heirs were aliens, (probably an aged father or mother who had furnished the boy the money with which to make the purchase) deprive them of the land with all its enhanced values made by his labors is, in my opinion, absurd and wholly wrong. I am willing to deprive them of the privilege of owing the land, but the proceeds thereof should be returned to them. The state should never take something for nothing, and should never de-clare a forfeiture for anything but a crime or a default in payment. I believe the above ideas framed into a

culty into which we have unwittingly

I have already said as much as the spin you can reasonably allow me may justif but there are some objections to the law it now stands which I cannot forbear me tioning. Article 10 prohibits any alien or unnaturalized foreigner or any firm, com-pany or corporation, composed in whole or in part of aliens, from acquiring title to land, and declares that any deed to such.

etc., shall be void. This includes every in-terest in lands.

While I believe that the greater part of the law is unconstitutional when tried by the Federal constitution, yet if the letter of the law can be sustained no railroad could have its right of way, no banks its building no factory its site, who perchance shoulhave one stockholder who is a foreigne-Every title coming through a comparatio company or firm must be left in doubt in less it is known that everyone connecte with the concern is a natural or naturalized

with the consern is a natural or naturalized citizen of the United States.

Then again, suppose A, B and C should purchase a tract of land together, A and B taking four-ninths each and C taking one-ninth, and it should occur that C was a foreigner, though that fact was inknown to A or B at the time of the purchase, if they constituted the firm of A B, C C, the dead would be void and the whole land escheat to the state. This, doubless, was escheat to the state. This, doubtless, we not the intention of the legislature but manifestly the meaning of the law, and if is allowed to stand it will do more to further unsettle and make uncertain the land to the state and turn investors homesockers alike away than any other that ever has or probably ever will stand upon the statute books of the state. There are many other matters I should lke to suggest with reference to our lan-policies and policy we should pursue, look-ng to the development of our state of ur

fathomed resources, or, for this time. Yours truly, A. K. Swas.

J. F. ROWLAND, RICHARDSON. Thinks It Should Have Been Passed Ten

Years Ago. RICHARDSON, DALLAS COUNTY, TEX. 1 Editor Gazette.

Editor Gazette.

Sia—As you request my views on the alien land law as passed by the last legislature, i will say that I think it a good law and have no suggestions to make in regard to it. I think if it had been passed ten years ago it would have been better for the country. As to your third question, it was not understood to exclude foreign capital from the state, but to prevent foreigners from acquiring title to lands in the state. I do not think the law affects loan association to any think the law affects lean association to any pread extent, as they only advance 40 per cent of the value of the property, and in case of foreclosure they would find a bidder for the property. Loan associations are hurtful to the state. They can be traced in nertial to the solution they lead to country by the desolution they lead to solly necessary to look at Kansas

E. D. RENFRO, BURLESON.

J. F. Kowhand

prove the evil effects of borrow

Favors the Spirit, but Texas Farms Should be Owned by Texans. BUBLESON, JOHNSON COUNTY, TEX., 8 Sept. I. 1861. Editor Gazette.

Replying to yours of August 27 requesthelpfung an expression from me either favorable or unfavorable of section 10 of the alien land law, and other questions in regard to the la and its effect upon the interests of the state. I have to say that I favor the spirit of the law, and oud fator only such changes or unemplayers as spirit of the law, and omid fa or only such changes or amendments as will give it torce and effect. I favor a law that will prohibit aliens acquiring and holding land in this state for any leagth of time. I think Texas farms should be owned by Texans, and the farmer of Texas a freeholder and not the tenant of an alien landford. And in my judgment to prevent aliens from plastering this state over with mortgages to secure the return of money loaned at S and 10 per cent interest. money loaned at 8 and 10 per cent interest will do much to preserve to the farmers of this state the land they cultivate. Facility for borrowing at 8 and 10 per cent is no favor to farmers, for borrowing causes speculation and bankrupts five men where it increases the income of one. At the present low prices of agricultural products there is not a farmer in Texas who makes 5 per cent on his lands, stock and farming implements, and to a stock and farming implements, and yet, strange to say, there are men who would have us be-lieve this so-called cheap money will secure great prosperity and wealth to our people, when in reality to the wealth-producing class it will cause dis-tress and bankruptcy in the end. When the principal, interest and all expenses are floally settled. Texas will bijays paid back two dollers for

will kinave paid back two dollars for every one received. No farmer can pay 8 and 10 per cent for money to improve his farm or increase his lands. Kansas, for the last fifteen years, has been made to prosper and her resources developed just in the same way these men propose to develop Texas, and if reports be

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ne sympathy or respect for a point that its secure so-called cheap money would more gaze and place under deeds of trust thousands of farms and millions of acres of undividuals, companies and corporations who have no interest in our welfare and pagress—only as they are postumitly benefited, and who are not the friends of our institutions or subject to our laws, i believe it would be to the interest of Texas if all foreign capital was interest of Texas if all foreign capital was withdrawn. Instead of remaining money londers they may turn land specialitors; in stead of having money to lead they may turn us out tenants to yell, and control legislation in their own interest. "Republics wants freeholders and not landlards and tenants." Great Britain now controls the price of our agricultural predicts. They should not be allowed to own our farms, countrol our labor and dictate legislation, which results in my judgment will be possible if the alten land haw is repealed or materially changest.

E. D. Rennao.

B. F. ROGERS, PALESTINE.

Opposed to Alien Ownership of Lands, Either by Firms or Corporations. PALESTINE ANDERSON COUNTY, TEX., Aug. 31, 1891.

Editor Gazette In reply to yours asking for my views open the callen land law. I submit the ellowing: Without roing into details, and omitting numbers, will say that I am op-

posed to the alien ownership of land, either by individuals, firms or corporations.

1. Because I believe it to be detrimental to the best interests of the state, and if permitted to go on unchecked would ulti-mately seriously threaten (if it does not now) our civil and political institutions 1 oppose it because the platform of my party, in state convention assembled, speaks out against it.

out against it.

3. I am opposed to nlien ownership of land, on the principle that no one should be allowed to own the land in a country except those who are willing and capable of becoming citizens, and who will swear alle-giance to our government, and be allied with us in the event of an unequal contest with a foreign foe.
I do not thin the intention

of the law was to "exclude foreign capital from the state," but to prevent "foreign" ownership of land. The effect of the law will cause some

temporary embarrassment, but will event-ually result in great good to the country; the unjust and unnecessary tirade against the law by the daily press of the state has done more, infinitely more, towards this embarrassment than the practical effects of law itself law itself.

You may be assured that the alien land the law has come to stay. Yours truly.

B. F. Rosens. Subscribe for the Weekly GAZETTE

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